The Pastor Speaks

By BOB WILLIAMS
I Corinthians 1:18-21

Foolishness to the Perishing

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

The Apostle Paul wrote the letter of I Corinthians from Ephesus about A.D. 55. He wrote to the church at Corinth which he had founded in A.D. 50 while on his second missionary journey. Paul became the first to preach Christ's gospel there. There had come reports of division in the church and Paul was writing in an effort to correct the problem. Corinth was the most important city in all of Greece in Paul's day. Its wealth was fabulous. Luxury, dissipation, and public immorality were rampant among this great industrial and seafaring population. The city itself was the center of a debased form of the worship of Venus. The wonderful church at Corinth, the brilliant jewel in the crown of Paul's labor, was failing. It all was because the worldliness of the city had gotten within it walls. It was good for the church to be in corinth, but it was fatal when Corinth got into the church. There were divisions in the church and the church wrote Paul asking his advice on the matter. Paul wrote in response to their request some three years after he had left Corinth. He wrote from Ephesus some 200 miles to the east.

The city of Corinth abounded in studios of language and schools of philosophy. Many of the Corinthians were setting too high a value on human wisdom and human eloquence in line with the typical Greek admiration for rhetoric and philosophical studies. Paul developed a contrast between worldly wisdom and the wisdom of God. Those who are headed down the path of destruction see nothing in the preaching of Christ and the cross but foolishness. All must fall into either the class of the saved or that of the lost. There is no other. Those who have accepted Christ as their personal saviour (Ephesians 2:8-9) have not yet all the wisdom of heaven, but they have been brought into a newness of life which enables them to realize the message of the cross. The message of the cross can best be summarized in John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whosoever believes inhim shall not perish but have eternal life". Those who refuse to accept this gift of salvation know nothing of the power of God as revealed at the cross. But the good news is that the perishing can experience a new life in Christ and know the power of God's redeeming grace.

This world is but a passing show, and its wisdom passes with it. Whereas, the message of the cross is simple and the acceptance of it enables you to live thoughout eternity with Jesus Christ in perfect harmony and happiness.

Bob Williams is pastor of New Hope Baptist Church.

Times-Virginian Church News

The Bible & Daily Living

Christ the Lord

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
Christ The Lord
Lesson for January 3, 1982
Bible Study Passages: John 20:26-29; I Cor. 12:103, Col. 1:15-20
Introduction

Titles are given or earned as a recognition of achievement or significance in the world. Some people use titles to set themselves apart or to distance themselves for others. The title of "Doctor" in the medical arena signifies one who has prepared themselves to care for the sick. In other areanas the title "Doctor" denotes achievement and knowledge of a particular specialty. Such titles are earned and worn with pride.

The title "master" has both negative and positive rings to it. There are master craftsmen and master musicians. Jesus was often referred to as "Master." In bygone years in certain segments of our nation, however, a "master" was one who lorded it over those who worked slaves. In essence, a master was owner and overseer of those who labored for him.

The title "Lord" is aseribed to only one person, namely, the Christ or God. The title "lord" is often used in royal circles to denote political or royal standing, or it can simply be a courteous address as in "sir." from Ephesus some 200 miles to the east.

In the case of Christ the term "Lord" denotes his divine authority. The term "Lord" was decidedly applied to Jesus in particular after his resurrection. From that time on Jesus was referred more and more as "Lord."

Affirming His Lordship (John 20:26-29)

When Jesus appeared to his disciples following his resurrection, there were some who expressed skepticism. Thomas was one of these. Numerous sermons have been preached that have labeled this disciple as "doubting Thomas." Such a label may be unfair.

There is something to be said for the one who struggles with their faith. Some persons go to the church which decides and thinks for them. This is certainly the path of least resistance. If you have someone or a group of people making your moral and ethical choices for you, then that let's you off the hook. This way is obviously easier but certainly is far from a "thinking person's religion."

Thomas willingly asked questions for which he desperately wanted answers. Some people are content to accept the crowd's thinking than to think for themselves and agonize for personal answers. The one thing we can say about Thomas is that he was no less faithless than any of the other disciples, but he was more open to express his doubts and questions. After all, in the end Thomas could faithfully exclaim, "My Lord and my God!"

Testimony of the Spirit (I Cor. 12:1-3)

Some things are "caught" rather than taught. Many of life's experiences are learned at the "University of Hard Knocks" as opposed to institutions of higher learning. Such was the case for Peter when he made his great confession of Jesus as the Christ at Caesarea Philippi. Jesus' response to Peter was, "Flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 16:17).

No serious confession of Christ or affirmation of faith is possible without the influence and intervention of God's Holy Spirit. Intellectual acknowledgements of God in Christ are within the realm of possibility, but life-changing confessions and affirmations come from the heart stirred by the Spirit of God.

Lord Of All [Col. 1:15-20]

Christ occupies the unique positon of being Lord over all we know and see, and over all we cannot see nor understand.

Early Gnostic teachers believed that Jesus was ever really human, and that he was simply a spiritual connecting link between God and humanity. Paul attacked the Gnostic teachers and acclaimed Christ as the "...image of the invisible God..." Paul described Christ as the direct manifestation of God himself.

Thus, Christ is Lord over all, including the church and all God's people. The birth of Christ, which we are celebrating in this season, marked the earthly advent of one who would be hailed as Lord of Lords and King of kings.

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois (WLYP).

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Jones leads inspirational service at Galilee Baptist

Inspirational services were held at Galilee this past Sunday Rev. Robert Jones, native of Farmville and student at Virginia Union University, was the visiting guest. Rev. Jones displayed his talents by singing a soulful selection and accompanying himself on the piano. The Senior Choir and the Youth Services Singers rendered moving numbers.

The Youth Services Singers and Rev. Tim Lawing were in concert at Gravel Hill Baptist Church. A large number of parents and friends accompanied the singers and minister. We would like to thank everyone for their support and the beautiful hospitality shown by the Gravel Hill membership.

In addition, the Youth Services Singers and Rev. Tim Lawing will be in concert at the Zion Baptist Church in Pamplin on the first Sunday in February at 3 p.m.

This week's calendar:

Wednesday: YSD meeting and rehearsal.

All auxillary heads are reminded to submit your requests for special days during 1982. The "program of Work" committee is preparing the roster of events. Please contact Mrs. Dorothy Stevens, Mrs. Alease Browder or Rev. Tim Lawing regarding this.

Mrs. Goldie Fleshman has returned home safely after spending a vacation in Baltimore.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Fleshman, Jr. spent the weekend with relatives and friends here in Appomattox, also Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Jones and mother of Newport News, were weekend guests of their relatives, the Lawing family.

Our college students Miss Nadine Fleshman and Mr. Herbert Allen, Jr. have returned to resume their studies.

Thought for the week: Human things must be known to be loved; but divine things must be loved to be known!

God Bless.

Canaan service set

The public is cordially invited to worship with us the second Sunday, Jan. 10, at the 11:30 a.m. regular worship service.

The Rev. C. L. Elliott will be pastor in charge, and the Senior Choir will render music.

Happy New Year to everyone.

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RABIES
VACCINATION CLINICS
1982

DATE	TIME	PLACE
Jan. 14 (Thurs.)	9:00 - 10:00	Appo. Animal Hos.
Jan. 29 (Fri.)	9:00 - 10:00	Appo. Animal Hos.
Jan. 29 (Fri.)	1:00 - 2:00	Pamplin Fire House
Jan. 29 (Fri.)	2:30 - 3:30	Red House (Jimmy's Grocery)
Feb. 10 (Wed.)	6:00 - 7:00	Appo. Animal Hos.)

VACCINATION FEE: $3.00 per dog

State Law requires certificate of vaccination before dog licenses may be purchased. Certificate information needed on day of vaccination.

Owner's Name and Address
Dog's Name, Sex, Age, Breed, Color
Appomattox County's Deadline for Dog licenses — FEBRUARY 1, 1982

APPOMATTOX ANIMAL HOSPITAL
Attending Vet — W. M. Burger, Jr. DVM

Basketball sign-up scheduled

The Appomattox County Youth Association's basketball sign-up and practice will be held Jan. 8 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Appomattox Middle School.

This is for boys and girls ages eight through 12.

All persons interested in coaching or refereeing are asked to attend the sign-up and practice session, as well.

Cost for the sign-up session is $5 per athlete.

BASKETBALL REGISTRATION FORM

NAME:_____

AGE (as of Aug. 1st):_____ Approx. Weight:_____

ADDRESS:_____

DATE OF BIRTH:_____ PH:_____

I hereby give my permission for the above named boy or girl to play basketball in the program of the Appomattox County Youth Association.

RELEASE

For, and in consideration of my child being allowed to participate in the Appomattox Youth Association Program, I hereby release all coaches, officials, and the Appomattox Youth Association from any and all injuries which my child may sustain or receive while practicing in the above mentioned program, either during practice or actual games or going to and from said practice or games.

_____ (SEAL)
PARENT OR GUARDIAN

Transco to buy coal operations

Transco Companies Inc. and General Energy Corpoartion (GNLE-OTC), Lexington, Kentucky, today announced that the two firms have reached a preliminary understanding for the acquisition of three of General Energy's coal operating subsidiaries, McCoy-Elkhorn Coal Corporation, Johns Creek Elkhorn Coal Corporation, and Bell County Coal Corporation, by Transco.

The understanding provides for Transco to purchase the common stock of the three subsidiaries for $61 million, resulting in the acquisition of all assets and liabilities of the subsidiaries. The transaction is subject to approval of a definitive purchase agreement.

These coal operations, which are located in Pike and Bell Counites, Kentucky, have the capacity to produce approximately 1,450,000 tons of low sulphur, washed coal annually. Reserves are estimated to be approximately 60 million tons of recoverable coal. The General Energy subsidiary, DLM Coal Corporation, is not included in the transaction.

General Energy participates in the acquisition, exploration and development of oil and gas properties on and offshore the United States, through a limited partnership with Kirby Exploration Company, Kirby Exploration Program Ltd. and through interests in various oil and gas properties. The company is actively engaged in the exploration and development of deep gas reserves in the Fletcher area of Oklahoma. The proceeds from the sale of the coal property may be applied toward the continued development of the General Energy oil and gas reserves.

Transco is engaged in domestic oil and gas exploration and production and the operation of a major interstate gas pipeline system. Exploration activities are conducted primarily in the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coast area both offshore and onshore. The pipeline's main transmission system extends from the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coast to the New York-New Jersey-Philadelphia area, a market it has served since 1951.

The acquisition of these coal properties is Transco's initial entry into the production and sale of coal. Also, Transco has a 22.5% interest in the Great Plains Coal Gasification project, the first commercial-scale, high Btu coal gasification plant being built in the United States.

Fuel consumption up *In October*

A composite tally of October 1981 gasoline, diesel fuel and gasohol sales in Virginia shows that motorists used 2.6 percent more motor fuel than they did in Ocotber of 1980.

The State Office of Emergency and Energy Services (OEES) reports that 213,522,000 gallons of gasoline were sold in Virginia this past October. This represents a 2.0 percent increase over the 209,282,000 gallons sold in October, 1980.

In-state diesel fuel sales increased 5.7 percent in October. This past October, 31,266,000 gallons of diesel was sold compared to the 29,538,000 gallons sold in October, 1980.

Gasohol sales in the Commonwealth have fallen to 240,000 gallons as opposed to the 358,000 gallons sold in July, 1981. Since July was the first month gasohol sales were tabulated separately from the state's gasoline count no year to year consumption comparison is available.

The State's monthly motor fuel figures are derived from the Division of Motor Vehicles' sales records.

Birth announced

Douglas Ray and Lois Anne Barksdale proudly announce the birth of a son, Brent Edward, on December 25 at 6:51 p.m. at the Virginia Baptist Hospital. Brett weighed seven pounds and seven ounces at birth and is twenty and three quarter inches in length.

Maternal grandmother is Mrs. Myrtle T. Campbell of Spout Spring. Maternal grandfather is the late Ernest R. Campbell.

Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. John Campbell of Phenix.

Doug and Lois Barksdale are owners and operators of the Chicken Palace in Appomatox; they reside at Thomas Terrace.

Man dies in accident

Ernest Burford Hamlett, 49, of Route 1, died at 4:15 p.m. Monday, Dec. 28, in Richmond as a result of a truck-train accident. He was the husband of Etta Jean Conn Hamlett.

Born in Charlotte County, he was a son of Mary Elizabeth Tucker Hamlett of Chester and the late Lacy Burford Hamlett.

He was a driver for Epes Transport System and a veteran of the Korean conflict.

In addition to his wife and mother, he is survived by two sons, Donald Hamlett of Rustburg and Ernest B. Hamlett Jr. of Appomatox; three daughters, Deborah Jean Hamlett, Vickie Darlene Hamlett and Florence Elizabeth Hamlett, all of Appomatox; one grandchild; a brother, Clem Hamlett of North Carolina; eight sisters, Margaret Vaughan of Petersburg, Lucille Carroll, Francis Martin, Alice Ray Collins and Edith Lewis, all of Chester, Beatrice Garrett of Madisonville, Nellie Laramer of Pittsburgh, Pa., and Brenda Wood of Roanoke.

Funeral services were held Thursday at 11 a.m. at Robinson Funeral Home with burial in Liberty Cemetery.

Robinson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

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12 COOLING SYSTEM CHECK SPECIAL
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$6.00
ANY APPLICABLE TAXES EXTRA. VALID JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 1982

13 WIPER BLADES and SOLVENT SPECIAL
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